to inſert ſeveral of them in fit places of that *Hiſtory*, againſt the next *Edition*. Here is a certain Stone, that is thought to be petrefyed Bone, being ſhap'd like a Bone, with the Marrow taken out; but with a fit *Menſtruum*, I found that I could eaſily diſſolve it, like other ſoft Stones: and poſſibly it may prove as fit as *Oſteocolla*, for the ſame Medicinal Uſes.

Of the nature of a certain Stone, found in the Indies, *in the head of a* Serpent.

There was, ſome while ago, ſent by Sir *Philiberto Vernatti* from *Java major*, where he reſides, to Sir *Robert Moray*, for the Repoſitory of the *Royal Society*, a certain Stone, affirmed by the Preſenter to be found in the Head of a *Snake*, which laid upon any Wound, made by any venomous Greature, is ſaid to ſtick to it, and ſo draws away all Poyſon: and then, being put in Milk, to void its Poyſon therein, and to make the Milk turn blew; in which manner it muſt be uſed, till the Wound be cleanſed.

The like Relations having been made, by ſeveral others, of ſuch a Stone, and ſome alſo in this City affirming, to have made the Experiment with ſucceſs, it was thought worth while, to inquire further into the truth of this Matter: ſince which time, nothing hath been met with but an Information, delivered by that Ingenious *Pariſian*, Monſieur *Thevenot*, in his ſecond *Tome*, of the *Relations of divers conſidirable Voyages*, whereof he lately preſented ſome Exemplars to his Friends in *England*. The Book being in French, and not common, 'tis conceived it will not be amiſs to inſert here the ſaid Information, which is to this effect:

In the *Eaſt Indies*, and in the Kingdom of *Quamſy* in *China*, there is found a Stone in the Head of certain *Serpents* (which they call by a name ſignifying *Hairy Serpents*) which heals the bitings of the ſame Serpent, that elſe would kill in 24 hours. This Stone is round, white in the middle, and about the edges

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edges blew or greeniſh. Being applyed to the Wound, it adheres to it of it ſelf, and falls not off, but after it hath ſucked the Poyſon: Then they waſh it in Milk, wherein 'tis left awhile, till it return to its natural condition. It is a rare Stone, for if it be put the ſecond time upon the Wound, and ſtick to it, 'tis a ſign it had not ſuck'd all the Venome during its firſt application; but if it ſtick not, 'tis a mark that all the Poyſon was drawn out at firſt. So far our *French* Author: wherein appears no conſiderable difference from the written Relation before mentioned.

Of the way, uſed in the Mogol's *Dominions, to make* Saltpetre.

This is delivered in the ſame Book of Monſieur *Thevenot*, and the manner of it having been inquired after, by ſeveral curious Perſons, to compare it with that which is uſed in *Europe*, 'tis preſum'd, they will not be diſpleaſed to finde it inſerted here in *Engliſh*, which is as followeth:

Saltpetre is found in many places of the *Eaſt Indies*, but chiefly about *Agra*, and in the Villages, that heretofore have been numerouſly inhabited, but are now deſerted. They draw it out of three ſorts of Earth, black, yellow, and white: the beſt, is that which is drawn out of the black, for it is free from *common* Salt. They work it in this manner: They make two Pits, flat at the bottom, like thoſe wherein common Salt is made; one of them having much more compaſs then the other, they fill *that* with Earth, upon which they let run Water, and by the feet of People they tread it, and reduce it to the conſiſtency of a Pap, and ſo they let it ſtand for two days, that the Water may extract all the Salt that is in the Earth: Then they paſs this Water into another Pit, in which it chriſtallizes into *Saltpetre*. They let it boil once or twice in a Caldron, according as they will have it whiter and purer. Whilſt it is over the Fire, they ſcum it continually, and fill it out into great Earthen Pots, which